


Planning & Parks Department  
160 S. Macy Street  
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Fond du Lac County

# Memo

To: UW-Ext. Education, Agriculture, and Recreation Committee  
From: Sam Tobias, Planning & Parks Director   
CC: Allen Buechel, Ellen Sorensen  
Date: October 30, 2009  
Re: September-October Report

---

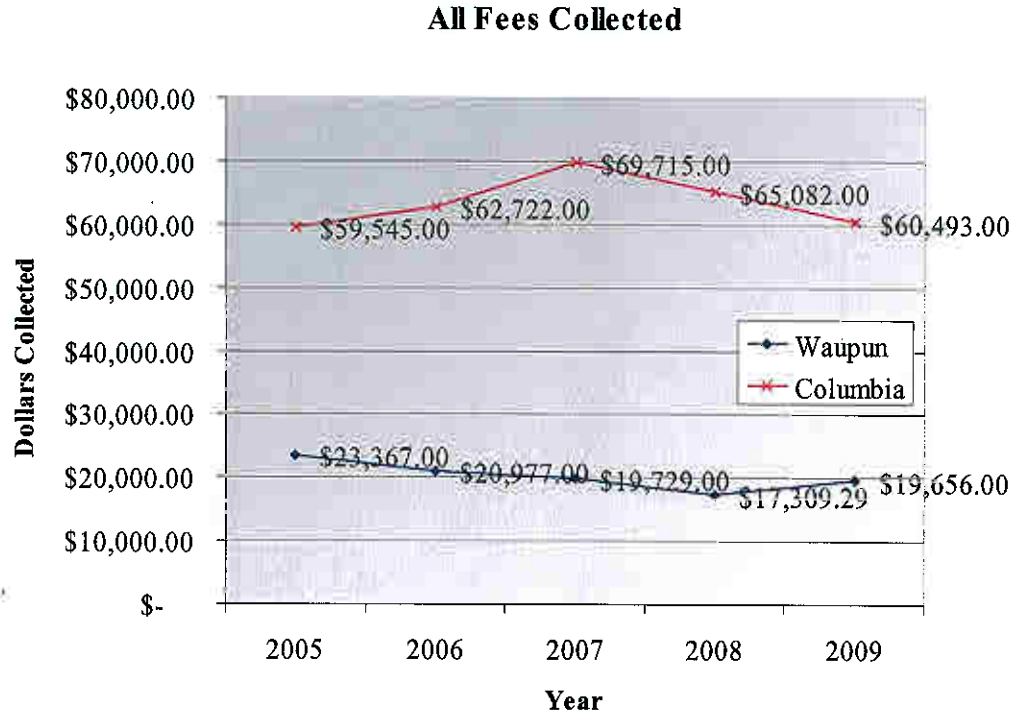
Riggs County Park-We have a contractor constructing the last sections of boardwalk to complete a walking path loop through wetlands areas in the north half of the park. Additional tree transplanting will take place later this fall once trees in our tree farm go dormant for the season. The disc golf course has been well received. In late October we abandoned an unused well that was part of Adams School.

Landfill-Maintenance over the last two months has been limited to the overhaul of two submersible pumps that move leachate from the west side of the landfill toward Rolling Meadows Drive and into the municipal sewer system. The flare continues to burn at about 750F.

Hobbs Woods-Our parks workers recently began a second fall season of buckthorn control. This invasive continues its spread through the park. Cutting and chemical treatment of stumps will continue until snowfall makes this work impractical. The DNR in cooperation with area residents, park enthusiasts, County Parks and the County Conservation Office are working on an effort to create a Friends of Parsons Creek group. The purpose of the friends group is to bring about greater awareness of the water quality problems that have been experienced in the creek of the past number of years. The first organizational meeting of the friends group is on Monday, November 17 at 7 p.m. in the Brownsville Community Center. If you have an interest in this effort, please feel welcome to attend the meeting. I will have more information on this effort over time. The immediate short-term benefit to us will likely be creation of a pool of volunteers that may have an interest in working on watershed projects in Hobbs Woods. We will likely work on the removal of invasive species, stream bank stabilization, construction and placement of fish structures and

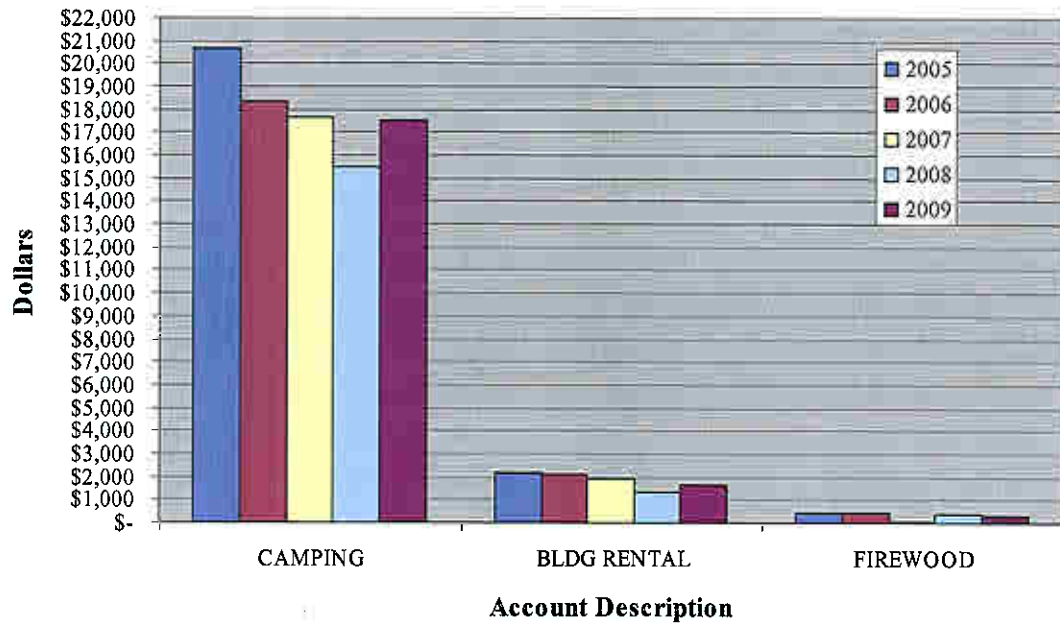
removal of many of the unauthorized trails that have appeared over the years along the stream.

Fees Report-Fees collected for Columbia Park are down by about \$4,600 from 2008, a 7 per cent loss. Fees collected for Waupun Park are up about \$2,300 from 2008 or a 13 per cent gain. The table below provides a 5-year history.



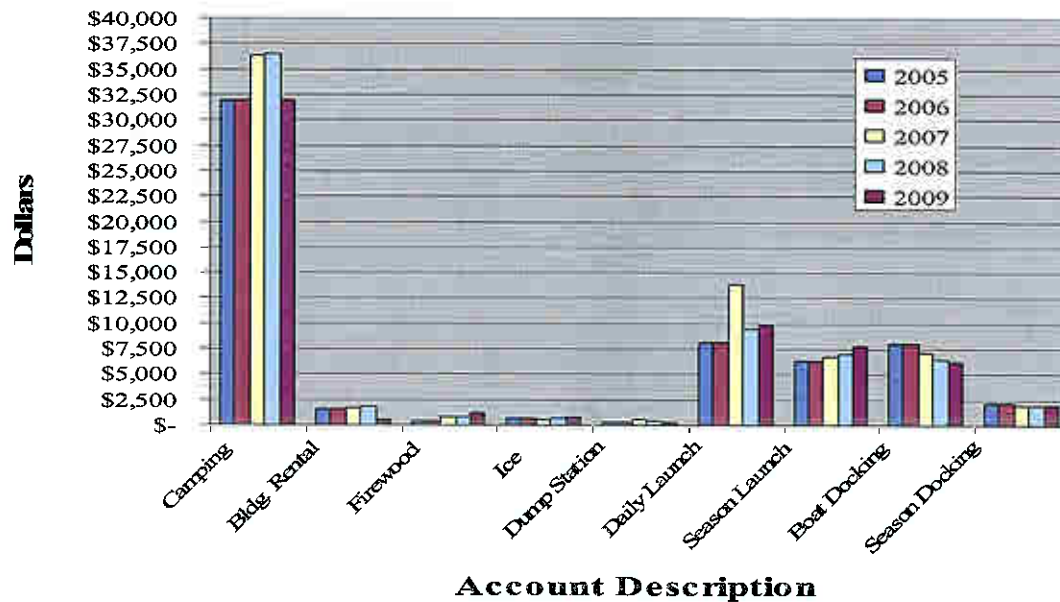
Fees collected over the last five years for Waupun Park have trended downward by small dollar amounts. Camping generated about \$21,000 in fees for 2005. In 2009, camping fees totaled approximately \$18,000 for the season. The Waupun Park swimming pool closed at the end of the 2006 season. The revenue figures seem to indicate that closing the pool had little impact on our other Waupun Park revenues in 2007, but the drop in revenue for 2008 may be attributed to the pool closing. Many of our campers visiting the park in 2007 were not aware then that the pool was closed. Our revenues are up for 2009. This increase might be attributed to the new campground showers/bathroom building and to the economy that has been keeping many people closer to home this year. There may be other reasons for the changes in revenue at both parks. Draw your own conclusions.

### Waupun Park Fees



Fees collected over the past five years for Columbia Park have trended very differently from Waupun. 2007-2008 were the best years for revenues in the past five years. We have made no significant changes at Columbia Park in the past five years. Gas prices were very high in 2007-2008 and these prices may have kept campers closer to home.

### Columbia Park Fees



Park Fees for 2010-We did increase fees for 2009 by a quarter on most items. The quarter increase is inconvenient for making change. I recommend we go up another quarter in 2010, then skip a year or two and then go up in \$0.50 increments in the future. A proposed schedule of fees and a resolution will be in your next committee meeting packet.

Wild Goose Trail Extension-The extension of our trail from Rolling Meadows Drive to Pioneer Road will likely be postponed to next spring. A few months back you authorized acceptance of trail easements from Mercury Marine and Agnesian HealthCare. One of those two easements has been signed and I am waiting for signatures on the second easement. Between now and next spring, we may get word from the Canadian National on when the railroad plans to pull its' tracks between Highway 41 and Pioneer Road. If the CN plans to remove their tracks by mid-summer of 2010, I propose to hold back on construction of our trail extension and build on the abandoned railroad if at all possible. We will wait and see how abandonment plans unfold over the winter months.

Other Projects-Work at the Aeronautical Industrial Park continues on hold pending approval of a DNR Storm Water permit that we applied for in mid August, 2009. We have completed all other pre-construction permitting and our contractor is anxious to get started on this project. I continue to administer the County's MS4 storm water program, tracking required public outreach activities, training of employees, and keeping track of all our storm water activities in anticipation of our required annual report to the DNR. I spent a fair amount of time over the last two months making contact with cities and villages around the county, ACs, Marian University and the Fond du Lac School District; seeking letters of support for our EPA grant applications. Working with Bonestroo, an environmental consulting firm from Waupun, we got our assessment grant applications in by deadline in mid October. Katie and I have been compiling some data for my required annual report starting in 2010. My plan is to have a report prepared on the 2009 year sometime in January or February at the latest. I would like to discuss what the committee might find useful information on an annual report.

Land Divisions-Fees for land divisions, creating new lots 1 to 4 at a time by Certified Survey Map (CSM) or by subdivision plat have been dropping since 2006. The housing market has been down so it makes sense that land divisions are down as well. A chart and a few tables follow on the next page that provide you with a 5-year picture of what has been happening with land divisions. Note that the 2009 numbers are only through October 28.

## CSM History

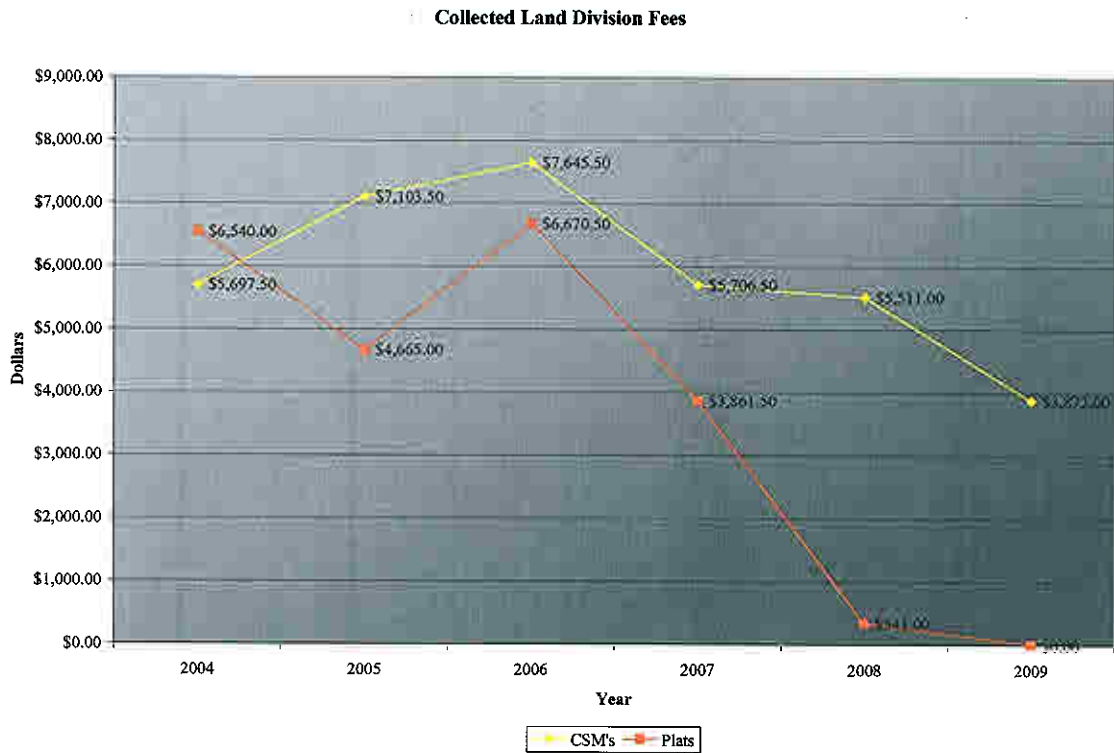
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009*
CSM's Received	140	170	139	103	91	70
CSM's Approved	131	158	130	99	85	58
# of Lots	197	252	213	149	129	105

\*As of 10/28/09

## Plat History

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009*
Plats Received	22	14	10	6	1	0
Plats Approved	N/A	9	6	3	1	0

\*As of 10/28/09



# 2009 County Parks & Trails Comparisons

	Dodge	FdL	Manitowoc	Outagamie	Sheboygan	Washington	Winnebago
Acres of county parks	382 acres (5 parks)	913 acres (12 parks)	560 acres (24 total parks & lake accesses)	965 acres	7,250+/- acres*	1,372 acres	566 acres (excludes trails & Expo Center)
Miles of county maintained recreation trails	20 miles (Wild Goose State Trail)	40 miles*	21 miles	34 miles (WIOUWASH, Newton Blackmoor State Trail, CE Trail, Old Stone Bridge Trail)	24 miles (Old Plank Rd Trail-17 miles & Interurban Trail-7 miles)	12 miles	21 miles of maintained state trail property
Number of full time park employees	3	3	1	8 (4 parks, 4 nature center)	0	11	7 full time & 2 permanent part time.
Number of seasonal park employees	8	6	4 - 6	16 ( 8 lifeguards, 7 parks, 1 nature center)	0; 1 proposed in draft for 2010 budget	12	18 (includes 2 Parks Rangers)
Number of support staff (Director, assistants, Etc)	2	2	1	0	0	Approx 2 full time	7* full time & 2 permanent part time.
2009 Tax levy for county parks	\$318,751*	\$716,210	\$126,200	\$741,211	About \$30,000	\$1,309,137	\$1,248,500*
2009 Tax levy for county maintained recreation trails	\$33,028	\$58,000 plus \$253,875 Grants	State Funded	\$2,500+/- included in parks budget.	About \$5,000 plus \$300,000*	0	\$6,000*
2009 Tax levy for entire county budget	\$31,001,767	\$38,128,170	\$27,894,138	\$57,825,348	\$44,331,717	\$38,343,150	\$68,006,191

\*Dodge County 2009 tax levy for county parks: \$318,751 (also received \$97,000 in Sales Tax funds for 2 capital projects).

\*Fond du Lac County miles of county maintained recreation trails: Eisenbahn State Trail, Mascoutin Valley State Park Trail, Northwest Trail, Peebles Trail, Prairie Trail, Wild Goose State Trail.

\*Sheboygan County acres of county parks: Broughton Sheboygan Marsh Park and Campground – 30 acres. Broughton Sheboygan Marsh – 14,000 acres of which *about half* are owned by Sheboygan County, the rest by private landowners and the DNR. Gerber Lakes Public Hunting and Fishing Grounds – 160 acres. Esslingen Wayside – 20 acres. County LS-Pigeon River Wayside – 4 acres. Taylor Park – 1 acre. Historical Society Park – 20 acres. Plus we have 4 additional boat landings outside of those at the Marsh and Gerber Lakes. Each of the 4 boat landings comprises from about 2 to 5 acres.

\*Sheboygan County 2009 tax levy for county maintained recreation trails: About \$5,000, plus about \$300,000 from previous bonding that will be spent late 2009 and into 2010 for repairs and reconstruction.

*Noted by Sheboygan County:* Please note that all recreation expenses are lumped together in our budget so I have estimated what we will spend in 2009 on each type. We have no dedicated parks and recreation staff. Parks and recreation work is performed by 1 Zoning Administrator and me, the Department Director, as time and needs permit. We are proposing to hire a part time seasonal person to better undertake and coordinate parks and recreational activities in 2010 and beyond. The County Board also just passed a user fee system for users of the campgrounds, boat landings, and Old Plank Road Trail, beginning April 1, 2010. The user fees are \$4 daily or \$16 annually for a resident family pass, and \$6 daily or \$24 annual family pass for non-residents.

\*Winnebago County number of support staff: 1 Director/Expo Manager, 1 Asst. Parks Director, 1 Asst. Expo Manager, 1 Expo Operations Supervisor, 1 Parks Secretary, 1 Parks Caretaker and 1 Foreman Mechanic. (\*Note – 2 Permanent Part-time Expo Caretakers).

\*Winnebago County 2009 tax levy for county parks: \$1,248,500 (includes \$120,000 Boat Landing Project paid for out of the Boat Landing Parking Permit Program).

\*Winnebago County 2009 tax levy for county maintained recreation trails: \$6,000 (w/ the '09 ACTUALS being \$42,000 spent on Snowmobile Prog. Expenses – Approx. (\$39,500) reimbursed from DNR).